

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Tommie L. Rogers

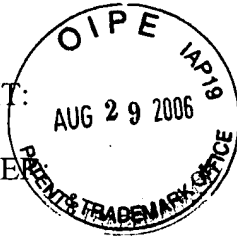
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/771,265

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ART UNIT: 3723

EXAMINER: McDonald, Shantese L.

FOR: Tong Assembly



**AMENDMENT/REPLY ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment/reply accompanies the Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") filed in the captioned application, in response to the Office Action of February 22, 2006 (made final). A shortened statutory period for response expired three months from the date of said Office Action, on May 22, 2006. This amendment/reply, and the RCE, is made August 22, 2006 by the Certificate of Mailing procedure provided for in Rule 1.8, and is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time of three months.

Please amend the claims as follows: